



Driving distractions

The Science of Distraction

Visual: eyes on road

Mechanical: hands on wheel

Cognitive: mind on driving

- Visual and mechanical distractions are short lived cognitive distractions last much longer
- Much more than "eyes on the road, hands on the wheel"

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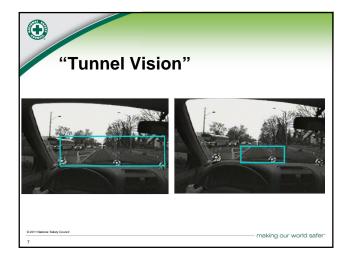


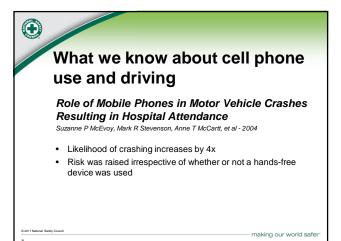
Selective attention / switching

- Top-down and bottom-up attention. No such thing as "multi-tasking" When brains are overloaded by two cognitive tasks, people switch attention (without recognizing it)
- Make one task "primary" and the other "secondary"
 Cognitive attention to driving becomes secondary to a phone conversation
- When driving is a secondary task for the brain, driving becomes impaired Impairment takes several forms, including

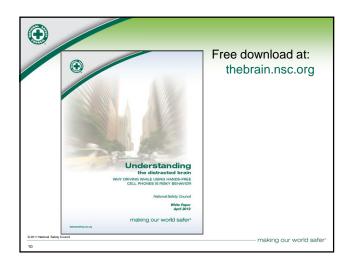
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inattention blindness and tunnel vision our world safer

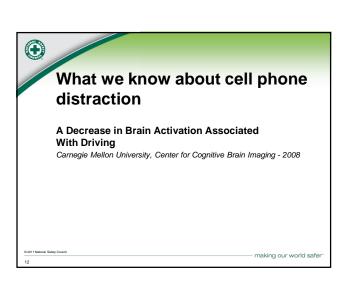


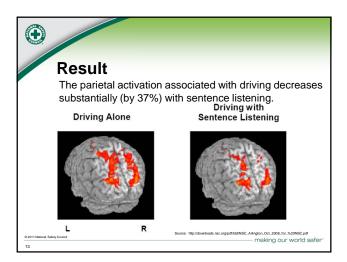


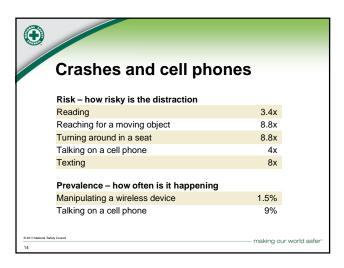


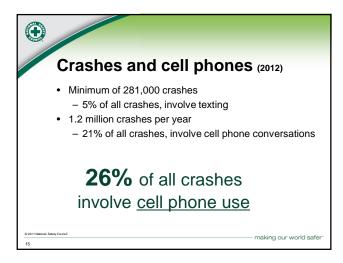


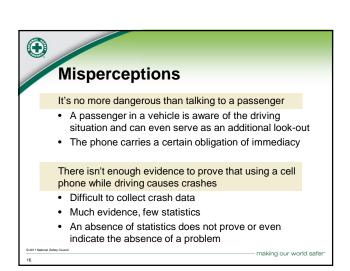


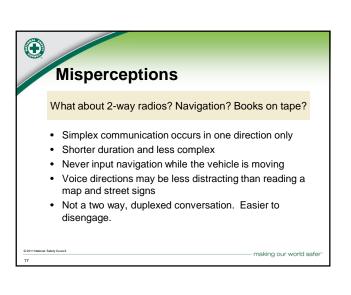


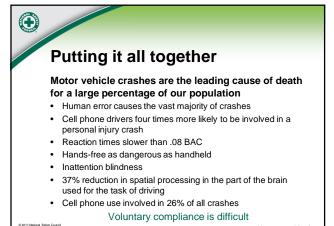


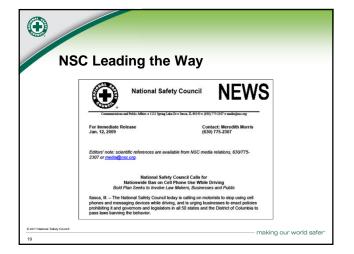
















Sample cell phone policy

Company employees may not use cellular telephones or mobile electronic devices while operating a motor vehicle under any of the following situations, regardless of whether a hands-free device

- When employee is operating a vehicle owned, leased or rented by the Company.
- When the employee is operating a personal motor vehicle in connection with Company business.
- When the motor vehicle is on Company property.
- When the cellular telephone or mobile electronic device is company owned or leased.
- When the employee is using the cellular telephone or mobile electronic device to conduct Company business.



Companies with policies

- DuPont
- Halliburton
- Shell
- Chevron
- BP
- Enbridge Argonne National Labs
- Spectra Energy
- CA Office of Traffic Safety
- Potash · Owens Corning

Abbott

EnCana

CSX Intermodal

Schneider National

· Sysco Corporation

· Time Warner Cable

Cargill

- NTSB

Just a sample - no national database of companies with policies



Company cell phone policies

Survey of NSC member companies - August 2009

- · 2,004 respondents
- 469 (23.3%) had bans that included both hands-free and handheld wireless communication devices
- 36.1% of NSC members w/o policies have plans in the next 12 months to create policies
- · Only seven companies (1.5%) with policies reported a decrease in employee productivity
- 46 companies (10%) reported a productivity increase

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Employer liability

\$21.6 million: A stay-at-home dad received the award for the violent wreck that killed his wife, after a jury found a driver negligent for either talking on her cell phone or some

\$21 million - A soft drink beverage salesperson driving a passenger vehicle was using a hands-free headset, in compliance with a handheld ban, when she struck another vehicle and injured the driver. A jury awarded \$21 million in damages to the injured driver.

\$20.9 million: Dykes Industries of Little Rock, Ark., lost a personal injury suit in which its employee was using a cell phone when the crash occurred.

\$18 million: Holmes Transport, of Muscle Shoals, Ala., was ordered to pay the damages by a U.S. District Judge to Mark Tiburzi who was left unable to walk or talk after a crash caused by one of their drivers distracted by a cell phone.

\$5.2 million: International Paper employee Vanessa McGrogan was using her company-supplied cell phone when she rear-ended a vehicle driven by Debra Ford.

\$2.5 million: State of Hawaii agreed to pay as its share of liability in a crash involving a state employee who was talking on her cell phone when she hit a tourist

\$1.5 million: City of Palo Alto has agreed to pay the victim of a 2006 vehicle crash "hyboring-a city-worker.who was using his cell phone while driving... making our world safe

